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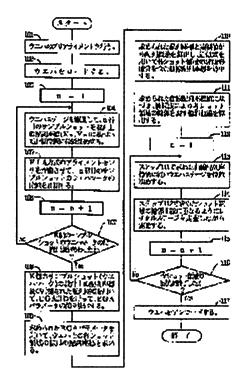
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(54) POSITIONING METHOD

(57) Abstract:

PURPOSE: To perform correct positioning by detecting a nonlinear component of a shot arrangement on a wafer. CONSTITUTION: Wafer marks of respective shot regions are measured by an alignment sensor so as to find the linear coordinate values of the reference points of the respective shot regions from these measurement results and the design data by an EGA method (steps 101 to 109). On the basis of the linear coordinate values and using an appropriation formula, the curve arrangement coordinates in consideration of nonlinear components of the shot arrangement are found (step 110) so as to find the outline curves indicating the outlines of the respective shot regions from the curve arrangement coordinates by interpolation (step 111).



Exposure is performed while changing a scanning direction, a rotation direction of a reticle stage and a height of a wafer stage conforming to strains of the respective shot regions to be shown by the outline curves.

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CLAIMS

[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1] With the aligner imprinted to each shot field on a substrate, the pattern formed in the mask In the alignment approach for performing alignment of each shot field of said substrate, and the pattern of said mask The 1st process which measures the array coordinate of the predetermined reference point which belongs to two or more predetermined shot fields among all the shot fields on said substrate, respectively, Statistics processing of the array coordinate on the design of said predetermined reference point belonging to the observation array coordinate measured at this 1st process and two or more predetermined shot fields on said substrate is carried out. The 2nd process which computes the linearity component of the observation array coordinate of said predetermined reference point, The alignment approach characterized by having the 3rd process which deducts said linearity component from said observation array coordinate, and asks for a nonlinear component, and the 4th process which asks for distortion of each shot field on said substrate based on the nonlinear component called for at this 3rd process.

[Claim 2] The alignment approach characterized by doubling with distortion of each shot field which is the alignment approach according to claim 1, and was detected at said 4th process, and making the projection image of said mask pattern on said substrate distorted.

[Claim 3] The alignment approach which is the alignment approach claim 1 or given in two, and is characterized by asking for the profile of each shot field on said substrate based on two or more curves which approximate two or more curves which pass along said predetermined reference point based on the observation array coordinate measured at said 1st process, and are obtained by this approximation in said 4th process.

[Claim 4] It is the alignment approach according to claim 2. Said aligner In order to be the aligner of the scan exposure mold which scans said mask and said substrate relatively and imprints the pattern of said mask to each shot field of said substrate serially and to make the projection image of the pattern of said mask on said substrate distorted The alignment approach characterized by changing at least one of the location gap by the relative scanning direction and the scanning direction, and the height of said substrate during a relative scan with said mask and said substrate.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[Industrial Application] About the alignment (alignment) approach of performing alignment of each shot field on a wafer, and the pattern of a mask based on the array coordinate predicted using the statistical method, also when the aligner of a stepper mold performs alignment, it can be applied, but this invention is suitable when performing alignment of a mask and each shot field on a wafer in the aligner of step - and - scanning method especially.

[0002]

[Description of the Prior Art] In case a semiconductor device or a liquid crystal display component is manufactured at a photolithography process, the projection aligners (stepper etc.) imprinted to each shot field on the wafers (or glass plate etc.) with which the pattern of the reticle as a mask was applied to the photoresist through projection optics are used. In order to expand exposure area, without making the burden to projection optics heavy as a projection aligner recently other than a stepper mold, step - and - scanning method which synchronize and scan a reticle and a wafer to projection optics are also being used.

[0003] For example, since many circuit patterns of a layer are formed in piles on a wafer, in case a semiconductor device carries out projection exposure of the circuit pattern after a two-layer eye on a wafer, it needs to perform alignment with the pattern of the reticle to be exposed each shot field in which the circuit pattern was already formed, and from now on on a wafer, i.e., the alignment of a wafer, (wafer alignment) with high precision. As the highly precise alignment approach of the wafer in the conventional projection aligner, as indicated by JP,61-44429,A The coordinate location of the alignment mark (wafer mark) attached to the shot field (sample shot) of the predetermined number chosen from on a wafer is measured. The alignment approach of the en hunger strike global alignment (it is hereafter called "EGA" for short) method which computes the array coordinate of each shot field on a wafer by carrying out statistics processing of this measurement result is learned.

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] However, by the alignment approach by this EGA method, since the array coordinate of the shot field on a wafer was searched for in linearity and alignment was carried out based on it, the nonlinear distortion in the shot field produced when a wafer receives various processes, and the nonlinear distortion by the wafer itself remained as an alignment error (superposition error). Therefore, especially, when a nonlinear distortion was large, there was un-arranging [that highly precise alignment was difficult].

[0005] In view of this point, this invention aims at offering the alignment approach which can carry out alignment of each [these] shot field and the exposure pattern of a reticle with high precision, even when a nonlinear distortion is in the inside of each shot field on a wafer, or the wafer itself.

[0006]

[Means for Solving the Problem] The alignment approach by this invention is the aligner which imprints the pattern formed in the mask (R) to each shot field on a substrate (W). In the alignment approach for

performing alignment of the each shot field and the pattern of a mask (R) of the substrate (W) The 1st process which measures the array coordinate of the predetermined reference point (22a-22h) which belongs to two or more predetermined shot fields (21a-21h) among all the shot fields on the substrate (W), respectively (steps 101-107), Statistics processing of the array coordinate on the design of that predetermined reference point (22a-22h) belonging to the observation array coordinate measured at this 1st process and two or more predetermined shot fields (21a-21h) on that substrate (W) is carried out. The 2nd process which computes the linearity component of the observation array coordinate of the predetermined reference point (step 108,109), The 3rd process which deducts the linearity component from the observation array coordinate, and asks for a nonlinear component (step 110), It has the 4th process (step 111) which asks for distortion of each shot field on that substrate (21a-21h) based on the nonlinear component called for at this 3rd process.

[0007] In this case, it is desirable to double with distortion of each shot field (21a-21h) detected at that 4th process, and to make the projection image of that mask pattern on that substrate (W) distorted. Moreover, in that 4th process, it is desirable to ask for the profile of each shot field (21a-21h) on that substrate (W) based on two or more curves which approximate two or more curves which pass along that predetermined reference point (22a-22h) based on the observation array coordinate measured at that 1st process, and are obtained by this approximation.

[0008] Moreover, an example of the aligner is the aligner of the scan exposure mold which scans the mask (R) and its substrate (W) relatively, and imprints the pattern of the mask (R) to each shot field (21d) of the substrate (W) serially. In this case, in order to make the projection image of the pattern of that mask (R) on that substrate (W) distorted, it is desirable to change at least one of the location gap by the relative scanning direction and the scanning direction and the height of that substrate (W) during a relative scan with that mask (R) and its substrate (W).

[Function] According to the alignment approach of this this invention, by the Prior art, a nonlinear distortion which the substrate (W) which was not able to be detected has is detectable by asking for the nonlinear component of the array coordinate of the predetermined reference point of a predetermined shot field. Moreover, when doubling with distortion of each shot field (21a-21h) detected at the 4th process and making the projection image of the mask pattern on a substrate (W) distorted, amendment also of a nonlinear error is attained and highly precise alignment can be performed.

[0010] Moreover, two or more curves which pass along a predetermined reference point (22a-22h) in the 4th process based on the observation array coordinate measured at the 1st process are approximated. When asking for the profile of each shot field (21a-21h) on a substrate (W) based on two or more curves obtained by this approximation, even if each shot field (21a-21h) is distorted nonlinear, it can ask for the profile of the form near those actual profiles.

[0011] Moreover, it is the aligner of the scan exposure mold with which an aligner scans a mask (R) and a substrate (W) relatively, and imprints the pattern of a mask (R) to each shot field of a substrate (W) serially. In order to make the projection image of the pattern of the mask (R) on a substrate (W) distorted In changing at least one of the location gap by the relative scanning direction and the scanning direction, and the height of a substrate (W) during a relative scan with a mask (R) and a substrate (W) The projection image of the pattern on a substrate and the bent shot field can lap by changing a location gap of a relative scanning direction and a scanning direction or the height of a substrate (W) according to distortion of the shot field, scanning a shot field.

[Example] Hereafter, one example of the projection aligner by this invention is explained with reference to a drawing. This example applies this invention to the projection aligner of scan exposure molds (step -, - scanning method, etc.). <u>Drawing 2</u> shows the perspective view of the outline configuration of the projection aligner of this example, and illumination distribution is equalized in this <u>drawing 2</u> through the optical system AL which the illumination light IL injected from the exposure light source which consists of an extra-high pressure mercury lamp etc. becomes from a fly eye integrator, a collimator lens, a relay lens, a field diaphragm, etc. And the illumination light IL by which illumination distribution

was equalized It is reflected by the dichroic mirror 1 and the lighting field IAR of the shape of a slit of the inferior surface of tongue (pattern formation side) of Reticle R on which the circuit pattern etc. was drawn through the condenser lens 2 is illuminated. The projection image which reduced the pattern in the lighting field IAR through projection optics 5 for the contraction scale factor (for example, 1/5 or 1/4) beta is projected on the exposure field IA of the shape of a slit on the wafer W with which the photoresist (sensitization material) was applied to the front face. In drawing 2, the Z-axis is taken in parallel with the optical axis IX of projection optics PL, and the X-axis and a Y-axis are set as the rectangular coordinate system within a flat surface perpendicular to the optical axis IX here. In addition, as the exposure light source, excimer lasers, such as other, for example, KrF, excimer laser [lamp / bright-line], such as an extra-high pressure mercury lamp, and ArF excimer laser, copper steamy laser, the tidal-wave wave generator of an YAG laser, etc. are used.

[0013] Reticle R carries out vacuum adsorption on reticle jogging stage 3a -- having -- this reticle jogging stage 3a -- the inside of a flat surface (XY flat surface) perpendicular to an optical axis IX -being two-dimensional (rotation also being included) -- it moves slightly and Reticle R is positioned. Moreover, reticle jogging stage 3a is laid on stage 3b for a reticle scan driven to a scanning direction by the reticle mechanical component (un-illustrating) which consisted of linear motors etc., and is movable in the direction (scanning direction) of Y at a predetermined scan speed. A reticle stage 3 consists of reticle jogging stage 3a and stage 3 for reticle scan b, and has the migration stroke whose whole surface of Reticle R can cross the optical axis IX of an illumination-light study system at least to the direction of Y on reticle base 3c. Migration mirror 4Y of the direction of Y which reflects in the edge of reticle jogging stage 3a the laser beam from two laser interferometers (un-illustrating), migration mirror 4X of the direction of X which reflects the laser beam from the laser interferometer 9 of the external direction of X, and the direction of Y, is being fixed. The location of the scanning direction (the direction of Y) of a reticle stage 3 and the direction of X is always detected with the resolution of about 0.01 micrometers as the average of the measurement value of two laser interferometers, and a measurement value of the laser interferometer of the direction of X. Moreover, the angle of rotation of a reticle stage 3 is also detected from the difference of the measurement value of two laser interferometers for Y-axes. [0014] The location and rotation information on a reticle stage 3 from those laser interferometers are sent to a stage control system 12, and a stage control system 12 drives a reticle stage 3 through a reticle mechanical component (un-illustrating) based on the location and rotation information on a reticle stage 3. Since the initial valve position of a reticle stage 3 is determined so that Reticle R may be positioned with a sufficient precision by the non-illustrated reticle alignment system in a predetermined criteria location, the location of Reticle R is measured sufficiently with high precision only by measuring the location of the migration mirrors 4X and 4Y with a laser interferometer. Moreover, the measured value of those laser interferometers is supplied to the alignment control system 14 and the CC system 13 through the stage control system 12, and a CC system controls a stage control system 12 based on the measured value of this laser interferometer.

[0015] In the projection aligner of this example, as shown in drawing 2, Reticle R is illuminated in the lighting field IAR of the rectangle (the shape of a slit) which has a longitudinal direction in the perpendicular direction (the direction of X) to the scanning direction (the direction of Y) of Reticle R, and Reticle R is a rate VR to the direction (or the direction of +Y) of -Y at the time of exposure. It is scanned. The pattern in the lighting field IAR (a core is mostly in agreement with an optical axis IX) is projected on Wafer W through projection optics 5, and the slit-like exposure field IA is formed. [0016] For Wafer W, since it has a handstand image formation relation, Wafer W synchronizes in the direction (or the direction of -Y) of +Y at Reticle R, and Reticle R is a rate VW. It is scanned and the pattern of Reticle R is serially exposed all over the shot field on Wafer W. The ratio (VW/VR) of a scan speed is what was in agreement with the contraction scale factor beta of projection optics PL, and the contraction imprint of the pattern of Reticle R is correctly carried out on the shot field on Wafer W. [0017] Vacuum adsorption of the wafer W is carried out on the wafer holder 6, and the wafer holder 6 is held on the wafer stage 7. To the best image formation side of projection optics PL, Z stage7Z in which the rotation actuation around an optical axis IX is also possible, and Z stage 7Z are laid [that it can

incline in the direction of arbitration] that it can move slightly in the direction of optical-axis IX (Z direction), and the wafer stage 7 lays X stage 7X which can move in the direction of X freely, and X stage, and is constituted from Y stage 7Y which can move in the direction of Y freely by the non-illustrated mechanical component. The wafer stage 7 performs step - and - scan actuation which repeat the actuation which carries out scanning exposure to each shot field on Wafer W by wafer stage mechanical components (un-illustrating), such as a motor, and the actuation which moves to the exposure starting position of the next shot field.

[0018] Migration mirror 10Y of the direction of Y which reflects in the edge of Z stage 7Z of the wafer stage 7 the laser beam from two laser interferometers, migration mirror 10X of the direction of X which reflects the laser beam from the laser interferometer 15 of the external direction of X, and the non-illustrated direction of Y, is fixed. The location in XY flat surface of the wafer stage 7 is always detected with the resolution of about 0.01 micrometers by the laser interferometer 15 and the laser interferometer (it is made to represent with "a laser interferometer 15" hereafter) of the direction of Y. The system of coordinates which become settled by the X coordinate and Y coordinate of the wafer stage 7 which are measured with a laser interferometer 15 are called stage system of coordinates (X, Y). Moreover, the angle of rotation of the wafer stage 7 is also always detected, the positional information (or rate information) and rotation information on the wafer stage 7 are sent to a stage control system 12, and a stage control system 12 controls a wafer stage mechanical component based on this positional information (or rate information). Moreover, the measured value of a laser interferometer 15 is supplied to the alignment control system 14 and the CC system 13 through the stage control system 12, and the CC system 13 has composition which controls a stage control system 12 based on the measured value of this laser interferometer 15.

[0019] Moreover, the wafer location detection system (a focal location detection system) of the oblique-incidence method which becomes equipment of drawing 2 from the exposure optical system which irradiates the image-formation flux of light for forming a pinhole image or a slit image towards the exposure side of Wafer W in the direction of slant to an optical axis IX, and the light-receiving optical system which receive the reflected light bundle on the front face of exposure of the wafer W of the image-formation flux of light through a slit is being fixed to the supporter (un-illustrating) supporting projection optics 5. About the more detailed configuration of this wafer location detection system, it is indicated by JP,60-168112,A, for example. A wafer location detection system detects the position error of the Z direction to the best image formation side of the projection optics 5 of the exposure side of a wafer, and since the wafer holder 6 is driven to a Z direction so that Wafer W and projection optics 5 may maintain predetermined spacing, it is used. The wafer positional information from a wafer location detection system is sent to the CC system 13 through a stage control system 12. The CC system 13 drives the wafer holder 6 to a Z direction based on this wafer positional information.

[0020] Moreover, the projection aligner of this example is equipped with the alignment sensor 11 of a FIA (Field Image Alignment) method (image pick-up method) near the projection optics 5 by the off-axis method for performing alignment of Reticle R and Wafer W. Measurement light is irradiated by the wafer mark later mentioned on Wafer W from the alignment sensor 11 of this FIA method, image formation of the wafer mark image is carried out on the index plate which the reflected light from a wafer mark formed in the alignment sensor 11, and the image which relayed this image has composition picturized with image sensors, such as two-dimensional CCD. And by carrying out the image processing of the image pick-up signal by the alignment control system 14, the location of the wafer mark on the basis of the index mark on the index plate is detected, and the coordinate in the stage system of coordinates (X, Y) of a wafer mark is detected by adding the coordinate of the wafer stage 7 at that time further.

[0021] Moreover, although not illustrated, in addition to this, the projection aligner of this example is equipped with the alignment sensor of a LSA (Laser Step Alignment) method and a LIA (Laser Interferometric Alignment) method, and it is used according to the surface state of Wafer W, choosing the class of alignment sensor. The detecting signal from these alignment sensors is processed according to the alignment control system 14, and the alignment control system 14 has composition controlled by

the CC system 13 in generalization. In addition, for each alignment sensor, the alignment sensor by which the alignment sensor which detects a location gap of the direction of X according to the wafer mark mentioned later, respectively detects a location gap of one shaft and the direction of Y is one shaft and a total of two shafts preparation ********.

[0022] Next, with reference to the flow chart of <u>drawing 1</u>, it explains per alignment approach of this example. First, Wafer W is coarsely positioned by the loading point at step 101. That is, with the PURIARAIMENTO equipment whose wafer W is not illustrated, it positions coarsely so that the flat section or the notch section on Wafer W may turn to a fixed direction. And in step 102, Wafer W is conveyed on the wafer holder 6 on a stage, it installs so that the direction positioned previously may be maintained, and vacuum adsorption of the wafer W is carried out on the wafer holder 6.

[0023] Next, precise alignment is performed by measuring the location of the wafer mark formed in each shot field of Wafer W using the alignment sensor 11 which shifts to step 103 and is shown in drawing 2. In addition, this alignment is performed about the 2nd layer of Wafer W or below, and the wafer mark is already formed for every shot field on Wafer W, respectively.

[0024] <u>Drawing 3</u> showed the shot array on Wafer W, and has taken out only the single tier which passes along the center section of Wafer W by <u>drawing 3</u> among the shot array. The coordinate location in the stage system of coordinates (X, Y) of the wafer mark of the shot field (it is called a "sample shot" below) of the predetermined number chosen from all the shot fields on Wafer W is measured. Let each shot fields 21a-21h be sample shots in this <u>drawing 5</u>. All over the street line between each shot field, as the shot fields 21a and 21b show, the wafer marks 48A and 48B for location detection of the direction of X and the wafer marks 49A and 49B for location detection of the direction of Y are formed. Below, the wafer mark of the direction of X and the direction of Y considers that the array coordinate of the core is the array coordinate of each shot field as what shows the array coordinate of the core of each shot field, respectively. The array coordinate on the design on the system of coordinates on the wafer W of each shot field on Wafer W (sample system of coordinates) (x y) is memorized beforehand.

[0025] As shown in <u>drawing 5</u>, each shot field deformed from the form of the rectangle at the time of a design, and the each shot fields [21a-21h] central point 22a-22h was not arranged in parallel to sample system of coordinates (x y), but is arranged rounded. This example carries out linear approximation of the shot array of the wafer W which has such a shot array by the EGA method first, and computes the array coordinate near an actual shot array by [still nearer to an actual measurement] carrying out curvilinear approximation based on it.

[0026] In this case, if shot field 21a is made into the sample shot for measurement, the X coordinate in the stage system of coordinates (X, Y) of wafer mark 48A for the X-axes is detected by the alignment sensor 11 of drawing 2, the Y coordinate of wafer mark 49A for Y-axes will be detected by the alignment sensor for non-illustrated Y-axes, and the detection result of those alignment sensors will be supplied to the alignment control system 14 and the CC system 13 of drawing 2.

[0027] If it explains in more detail, K shot fields (K is three or more integers) will be chosen from all the shot fields on Wafer W as a sample shot. In this case, the array coordinate on a design at the core of all the shot fields on Wafer W, i.e., the sample system of coordinates of each wafer mark, (x y) is memorized by the storage section in the CC system 13. the following -- array coordinate (Xn and Yn) on the n-th design (n=1-K) of the core of a sample shot ** -- it carries out.

[0028] And the CC system 13 shifts to step 104, after initializing to 1 the integer n which shows the sequence of a sample shot in step 103. The array coordinate on the n-th design of the core of a sample shot (Xn and Yn) By being based and carrying out the stepping drive of the wafer stage 7 through a stage control system 12 It sets up so that the wafer mark of the n-th sample shot may come to the measurement location of the alignment sensor 11. However, it has separated from the core of the sample shot from the exposure location according to telescopic motion of Wafer W, a rotational error, etc. in fact. This amount of location gaps is an alignment error, and an actual array coordinate including this alignment error is measured.

[0029] Therefore, the CC system 13 operates two alignment sensors and the alignment control system 14 of a FIA method, and makes the location in the stage system of coordinates (X, Y) of two wafer

marks of the n-th sample shot on Wafer W detect in step 105. The positional information is supplied to the CC system 13. It judges whether after only 1 made the value of an integer n increase, it shifted to step 107 and measurement finished with continuing step 106 about K sample shots. Therefore, steps 104-106 are repeated K times, about each of K sample shots, the coordinate value of two wafer marks, i.e., a main array coordinate, (XMn and YMn) asks, and it is memorized. Thus, if measurement is performed about K sample shots, actuation will shift to step 108 from step 107. [0030] And the CC system 13 computes the coordinate transformation parameter (it is hereafter called an "EGA parameter") from sample system of coordinates (x y) to stage system of coordinates (X, Y) using the array coordinate (Xn and Yn) and the actually measured array coordinate (XMn and YMn) on the design of the core of each sample shot. In addition, the EGA parameter may be computed by computer of every exception. This count is performed using a least square method as indicated by JP,61-44429, A. Moreover, the EGA parameter is a linearity parameter which consists of the linearity telescopic motion (scaling) Rx and Ry, Rotation theta, perpendicularity W, and offset Ox and Oy. [0031] Next, it shifts to step 109 and the CC system 13 calculates an array coordinate value [linearity / on the count on the stage system of coordinates (X, Y) of each / these / central point] (GXn, GYn) using the EGA parameter for which it asked at step 108, and the array coordinate value on the design of the central point of all the shot fields on Wafer W (CXn, CYn). <u>Drawing 4</u> shows the condition in stage system of coordinates (X, Y) with a central point [each / 22a-22h] of shot fields [which are shown in drawing 3 / 21a-21h], the straight line which connected the array coordinate value (GXn, GYn) asked for alpha shaft by the above EGA count about the central point 22a-22h in this drawing 6 is shown, and beta shaft shows the straight line which put the core of each shot field in a row to the lengthwise direction. The include angle of this alpha shaft and the X-axis of stage system of coordinates (X, Y) is Rotation theta. Although the shot array by the linear approximation on Wafer W is acquired by EGA count as shown in this drawing 4, the each central point [to alpha shaft / 22a-22h] nonlinear error remains. For example, the central point 22c and 22b etc. has a large error from alpha shaft. [0032] Then, in step 110, the array error (delta GXN, delta GYN) of the linearity array coordinate (GXn, GYn) and actual measurement (XMn and YMn) which were computed at step 109 is computed, based on the array error (delta GXn, delta GYn), curvilinear interpolation is carried out by the Lagrange's interpolation polynomial by making the shot array on Wafer W into an example, and a nonlinear curvilinear array coordinate value is computed. If each shot field of q lines of Wafer W shall be formed in the direction of X in p train and the direction of Y here, this curvilinear array coordinate value will be computed by covering p train and q lines, and the array coordinate value of all the shot fields of Wafer W will be calculated. Thereby, the curvilinear array coordinate value about q lines (QXms and QYms) is obtained about p train (PXms and PYms). However, m is an integer from 1 to p, and s is an integer from 1 to q. In addition, although the Lagrange's interpolation polynomial was used for searching for the curvilinear array of each shot field in this example, other interpolation types and approximate expressions may be used. For example, you may approximate with a secondary function, the 3rd function, etc. about a coordinate.

[0033] Drawing 5 shows a part of curvilinear array coordinate value obtained by curvilinear approximation, and the curvilinear array coordinate value obtained by the above approach as an alignment curve 23 showed the approximation curve about the shot fields [21a-21h] central point 22a-22h and it was shown in this alignment curve 23 shows the array near an actual measurement in this drawing 5. Next, it asks for the profile curve of each shot field by the interpolation type at step 111 from the curvilinear array coordinate value calculated at step 110. For example, when asking for a shot fields [21a-21h] profile curve, supposing the shot fields 21a-21h are in s lines now The interpolation coordinate value (THXms and THYms) which shows the profile of the edge of the shot fields [21a-21h] direction of +beta is computed by substituting (PYm (s-1)+PYms) / 2 for the interpolation type showing p shot fields [21a-21h] trains which belong. Moreover, the interpolation coordinate value (BHXms and BHYms) which shows the profile of the edge of the direction of -beta similarly is computed by substituting (PYm (s+1)+PYms) / 2. A profile coordinate value (RHXms and RHYms), and (LHXms and LHYms) which show the profile of right and left of shot fields [21a-21h] alpha shaft

orientations by the same approach are computed. And the profile coordinate value showing the profile of all the shot fields on Wafer W is computed, and it memorizes by the CC system 13. In addition, the profile coordinate value calculated here shows the middle location of the adjacent shot field instead of the coordinate value which shows the location of the side of each shot field, i.e., the location of the center section of the street line. Therefore, when the position coordinate of the side of each shot field was required, for example width of face of a street line is set to d, if only **d/2 is added to the abovementioned interpolation coordinate value, it can compute. The profile curve of beta shaft orientations of each shot field is computed similarly.

[0034] Drawing 6 shows the curvilinear map in which the interpolation coordinate value calculated by the above approach is shown, and sets it to this drawing 6. For example, interpolation curvilinear 24T shown with a broken line show the curve showing the interpolation coordinate value (THXms and THYms) which shows the profile of the edge of the shot fields [21a-21h] direction of +beta. Interpolation curvilinear 24B similarly shown with a broken line shows the curve showing the interpolation coordinate value (BHXms and BHYms) which shows the profile of the edge of the shot fields [21a-21h] direction of -beta. Moreover, interpolation curvilinear 24R similarly shown with a broken line shows the curve showing the interpolation coordinate value (RHXms and RHYms) which shows the profile of the edge of the direction of -alpha of 21g of shot fields, and interpolation curvilinear 24L shows the curve showing the interpolation coordinate value (LHXms and LHYms) which shows the profile of the edge of the direction of +alpha of 21g of shot fields.

[0035] Next, in step 112, n is initialized to 1 and exposure of each shot field is started. First, in step 113, the wafer stage 7 is positioned according to the curvilinear array coordinate value which shows the location of the central point of each shot field for which it asked at step 110. And it exposes in step 114, scanning the wafer stage 7 or a reticle stage 3 so that the interpolation curve between the shot fields for which it asked at step 111 may be met from the stage location determined at step 113. In this case, since the scanning direction of Wafer W is the direction of beta, it rotates Z stage 7Z of drawing 2, and it rotates Wafer W so that that direction of beta may be in agreement with the Y-axis of stage system of coordinates.

[0036] Drawing 7 is for explaining the scanning direction of the reticle stage 3 corresponding to the profile of a shot field, and the wafer stage 7, and drawing 7 (a) and drawing 7 (d) show two shot fields where it is distorted, respectively and directions differ. Moreover, drawing 7 (b) and (e) show the scanning direction of the reticle stage 3 in that case, and drawing 7 (c) and (f) show the scanning direction of the wafer stage 7. As shown in this drawing 7 (a), when the both sides 25R and 25L on either side have bent uniformly in the direction of +X (direction right-angled on beta shaft) from lower side 25B towards surface 25T of the shot field 25 As shown in drawing 7 (c) and (b), while scanning the wafer stage 7 linearly in the direction (beta shaft orientations) of +Y A reticle stage 3 is scanned in the direction of -Y so that the projection image on the wafer W of the scanning line 27 of a reticle stage 3 may become isomorphism in the sides 25R and 25L of right and left of the shot field 25 mostly. in this case, intersection P1 of surface 25T and right-hand-side 25L of the shot field 25 of drawing 7 (a) from -point P2 with right-hand-side 25L up to -- the distance of the direction of Y -- u -- carrying out -intersection P1 from -- point P2 up to -- the distance of the direction of X -- t (u) -- then Scan initiation point P3 of the reticle stage 3 of drawing 7 (b) Point P2 of drawing 7 (a) The scanning direction of a reticle stage 3 is controlled so that t(u) =betar (w) is mostly materialized among the distance w and R of the direction of X between the corresponding points P4, and the direction of Y (w). In addition, beta showed the projection scale factor of projection optics 5, and the relation of u=beta w is materialized between the distance u of a shot field, and the scan distance w of a reticle stage 3.

[0037] Moreover, surface 26T and lower side 26B of the shot field 26 will be in an parallel condition like drawing 7 (d). When having bent so that the width of face of left part 26R may be larger than the width of face of right-hand-side 26L and both sides on either side may swell in the direction of +X As shown in drawing 7 (e) So that the center section of the reticle stage 3 may meet scan curvilinear 29b corresponding to the alignment curve 30 which shows the curvilinear array coordinate which passes along central point 26a of the shot field 26 of drawing 7 (d) Scanning, the scanning direction of right

and left of a reticle stage 3 is scanned so that the scan curves 29a and 29c corresponding to the both sides 26R and 26L of the shot field of drawing 7 (d) may be met. The migration length of right and left of a reticle stage 3 is adjusted by specifically rotating a reticle stage 3 counterclockwise. [0038] moreover, when the width of face of the non-scanning direction of the upper part of the shot field 33 and the lower part show in the case where overall magnitude differ like the shot fields 31 and 32 show in drawing 8 (a), or drawing 8 (b) differ extremely, where tele cent rucksack nature be break down, in addition to the approach of drawing 7, a reticle stage 3 and the wafer stage 7 be further move to a Z direction perpendicular to XY flat surface, and it correspond by change the projection scale factor beta. For example, in the example of drawing 8 (a), in exposing the shot field 32, it moves a reticle stage 3 and the wafer stage 7 to a Z direction so that the projection scale factor beta may be made smaller than the case of the shot field 31. Moreover, in the example of drawing 8 (b), when exposing the shot field 33, it exposes by making the projection scale factor beta small gradually, moving a reticle stage 3 and the wafer stage 7 during a scan at a Z direction.

[0039] Next, it is checked whether at step 115, after only 1 made the value of an integer n increase, shifted to step 116 and exposure of all shot fields has been completed. If it has not ended, return and the next shot field are again exposed to step 113. When it ends, the exposure actuation about Wafer W is ended by what the wafer W which exposure ended at step 117 is taken out from the wafer holder 6 for (unload).

[0040] As mentioned above, according to the alignment approach of this example, by the Prior art, amendment also of the error by nonlinear distortion which the processed substrate which was not able to be amended has is attained, and highly precise alignment can be performed. moreover, by also taking into consideration the distortion component of each shot field, and scanning a wafer stage or a reticle stage in the shape of a curve at the time of exposure, there is effectiveness of the improvement in precision of the superposition not only in the core of a shot field but the periphery section, and there is an advantage that the yield of the chip which can be taken from per wafer also goes up. Furthermore, according to this example, by asking for the profile curve of the shot field on a wafer, scale-factor fluctuation of each shot field can also be known, and there is also an advantage of becoming possible to perform scale-factor amendment for every shot field at the time of scan exposure.

[0041] Moreover, the approach of this invention is applicable not only to a scanning projection aligner but the aligner of the stepper mold which carries out one-shot exposure of the pattern on a reticle to the shot field on a wafer. Thus, this invention can take configurations various in the range which is not limited to the above-mentioned example and does not deviate from the summary of this invention. [0042]

[Effect of the Invention] According to the alignment approach of this invention, since it is asking for the nonlinear component of the array coordinate of two or more predetermined shot fields, there is an advantage which can detect the nonlinear distortion of the substrate (wafer) which was not detected conventionally. Moreover, in doubling with distortion of each shot field detected at the 4th process and making the projection image of the mask pattern on a substrate distorted, in order to take into consideration to the nonlinear distortion of a substrate and to perform alignment, it is effective in highly precise superposition becoming possible.

[0043] Moreover, in the 4th process, two or more curves which pass along the predetermined central point based on the observation array coordinate measured at the 1st process are approximated, and when asking for the profile of each shot field on a substrate based on two or more curves obtained by this approximation, it can ask for the profile near the almost actual form of each shot field. Furthermore, scale-factor fluctuation of each shot field can also be known by calling for the exact profile of each shot field on a substrate. There is also an advantage which can follow, for example, can perform scale-factor amendment for every shot field at the time of exposure.

[0044] Moreover, in order to be the aligner of the scan exposure mold with which an aligner scans a mask and a substrate relatively and imprints the pattern of a mask to each shot field of a substrate serially and to make the projection image of the pattern of the mask on a substrate distorted In changing at least one of the location gap by the relative scanning direction and the scanning direction, and the

height of a substrate during a relative scan with a mask and a substrate The projection image of the pattern on a substrate and distortion of a shot field can lap by changing a location gap of a relative scanning direction and a scanning direction or the height of a substrate according to distortion of the shot field, scanning a shot field. Therefore, there is effectiveness of the improvement in precision of the superposition not only in the core of each shot field but the periphery section, and there is an advantage that the yield of the chip which can be taken from per substrate also goes up.

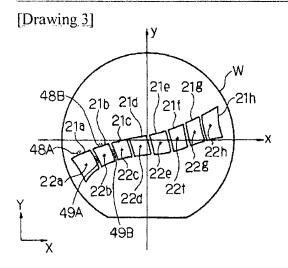
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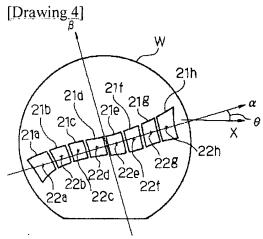
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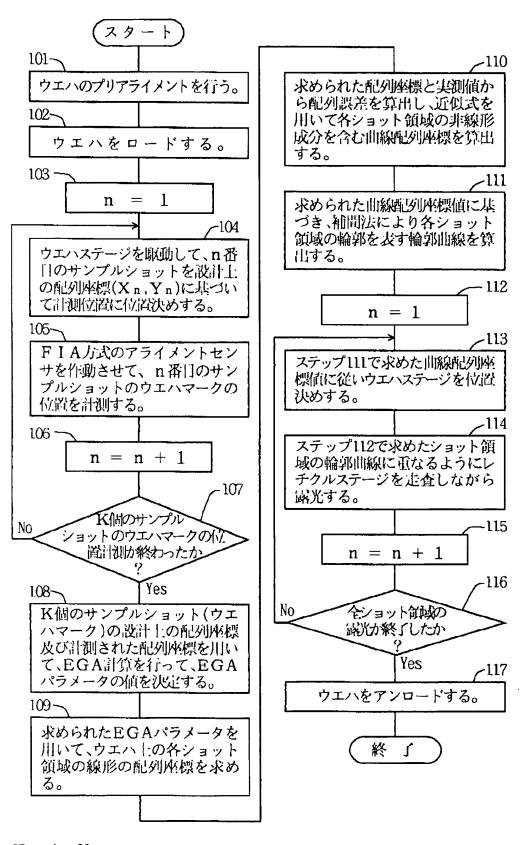
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DRAWINGS

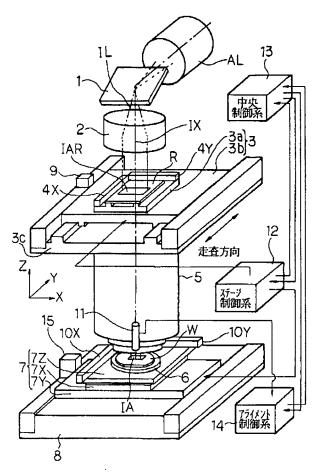


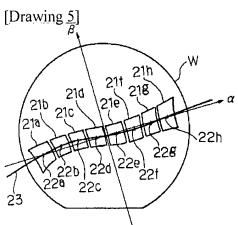


[Drawing 1]

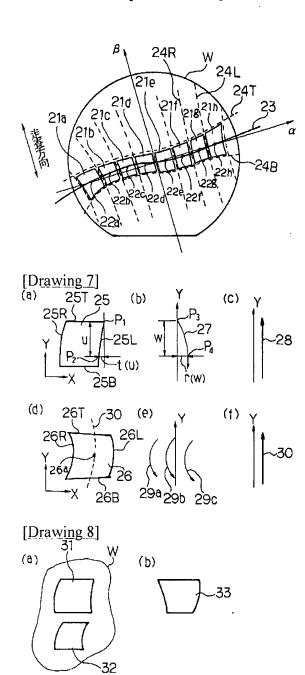


[Drawing 2]





[Drawing 6]



[Translation done.]

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CORRECTION OR AMENDMENT

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[Filing Date] June 19, Heisei 14 (2002. 6.19)

[Procedure amendment 1]

[Document to be Amended] Specification

[Item(s) to be Amended] Claim

[Method of Amendment] Modification

[Proposed Amendment]

[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1] In the alignment approach for the aligner which imprints the pattern formed in the mask to each shot field on a substrate to perform alignment of each shot field of said substrate, and the pattern of said mask.

The 1st process which measures the array coordinate of the predetermined reference point which belongs to two or more predetermined shot fields among all the shot fields on said substrate, respectively,

The 2nd process which computes the linearity component of the observation array coordinate of said predetermined reference point by carrying out statistics processing of the array coordinate on the design of said predetermined reference point belonging to the observation array coordinate measured at this 1st

process, and two or more predetermined shot fields on said substrate,

The 3rd process which computes the error of said observation array coordinate and said linearity component,

The 4th process which searches for the nonlinear array of each shot field on said substrate based on said error searched for at this 3rd process,

The alignment approach characterized by ****(ing).

[Claim 2] In the alignment approach according to claim 1,

Furthermore, the alignment approach characterized by including the 5th process which asks for distortion of said each shot field.

[Claim 3] It is the alignment approach according to claim 2,

The alignment approach characterized by doubling with distortion of each shot field detected at said 5th process, and making the projection image of the pattern of said mask on said substrate distorted.

[Claim 4] They are claims 1 and 2 or the alignment approach given in 3,

The alignment approach characterized by asking for the profile of each shot field on said substrate based on two or more curves which approximate two or more curves which pass along said predetermined reference point in said 4th process based on the observation array coordinate measured at said 1st process, and are obtained by this approximation.

[Claim 5] It is the alignment approach according to claim 3,

Said aligner is an aligner of the scan exposure mold which scans said mask and said substrate relatively and imprints the pattern of said mask to each shot field of said substrate serially,

The alignment approach characterized by changing at least one of the location gap by the relative scanning direction and the scanning direction, and the height of said substrate during a relative scan with said mask and said substrate in order to make the projection image of the pattern of said mask on said substrate distorted.

[Procedure amendment 2]

[Document to be Amended] Specification

[Item(s) to be Amended] 0006

[Method of Amendment] Modification

[Proposed Amendment]

[0006]

[Means for Solving the Problem] The alignment approach by this invention is the aligner which imprints the pattern formed in the mask (R) to each shot field on a substrate (W). In the alignment approach for performing alignment of the each shot field and the pattern of a mask (R) of the substrate (W) The 1st process which measures the array coordinate of the predetermined reference point (22a-22h) which belongs to two or more predetermined shot fields (21a-21h) among all the shot fields on the substrate (W), respectively (steps 101-107), Statistics processing of the array coordinate on the design of that predetermined reference point (22a-22h) belonging to the observation array coordinate measured at this 1st process and two or more predetermined shot fields (21a-21h) on that substrate (W) is carried out. The 2nd process which computes the linearity component of the observation array coordinate of the predetermined reference point (step 108,109), It has the 3rd process (step 110) which computes the error of an observation array coordinate and its linearity component, and the 4th process (step 110) which searches for the nonlinear array of each shot field on that substrate (21a-21h) based on the error searched for at this 3rd process. In this case, you may make it include the 5th process (step 111) which asks for distortion of each of that shot field (21a-21h) further.

[Procedure amendment 3]

[Document to be Amended] Specification

[Item(s) to be Amended] 0007

[Method of Amendment] Modification

[Proposed Amendment]

[0007] Moreover, it is desirable to double with distortion of each shot field (21a-21h) detected at the 5th process, and to make the projection image of the mask pattern on the substrate (W) distorted. Moreover,

in that 4th process, it is desirable to ask for the profile of each shot field (21a-21h) on that substrate (W) based on two or more curves which approximate two or more curves which pass along that predetermined reference point (22a-22h) based on the observation array coordinate measured at that 1st process, and are obtained by this approximation.

[Procedure amendment 4]

[Document to be Amended] Specification

[Item(s) to be Amended] 0009

[Method of Amendment] Modification

[Proposed Amendment]

[0009]

[Function] According to the alignment approach of this this invention, by the Prior art, a nonlinear distortion which the substrate (W) which was not able to be detected has is detectable by asking for the nonlinear component of the array coordinate of the predetermined reference point of a predetermined shot field. Moreover, when doubling with distortion of each shot field (21a-21h) detected at the 5th process and making the projection image of the mask pattern on a substrate (W) distorted, amendment also of a nonlinear error is attained and highly precise alignment can be performed.

[Procedure amendment 5]

[Document to be Amended] Specification

[Item(s) to be Amended] 0042

[Method of Amendment] Modification

[Proposed Amendment]

[0042]

[Effect of the Invention] According to the alignment approach of this invention, since it is asking for the nonlinear component of the array coordinate of two or more predetermined shot fields, there is an advantage which can detect the nonlinear distortion of the substrate (wafer) which was not detected conventionally. Moreover, in doubling with distortion of each shot field detected at the 5th process and making the projection image of the mask pattern on a substrate distorted, in order to take into consideration to the nonlinear distortion of a substrate and to perform alignment, it is effective in highly precise superposition becoming possible.

[Translation done.]

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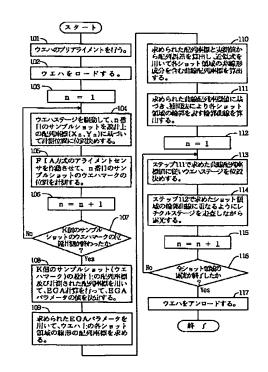
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(54) 【発明の名称】 位置合わせ方法

(57)【要約】

【目的】 ウエハ上のショット配列の非線形成分を検出して正確な位置合わせを行う。

【構成】 各ショット領域のウエハマークをアライメントセンサで計測し、この計測結果及び設計データから E G A 法により各ショット領域の基準点の線形座標値を求める(ステップ101~109)。その線形座標値に基づき近似式を用いてショット配列の非線形成分を考慮した曲線配列座標を求め(ステップ110)、その曲線配列座標から補間法により各ショット領域の輪郭を表す輪郭曲線を求める(ステップ111)。その輪郭曲線で示される各ショット領域の歪みに対応してレチクルステージの走査方向、回転方向、及びウエハステージの高さを変化させながら露光を行う(ステップ114)。



【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】 マスクに形成されたパターンを基板上の各ショット領域に転写する露光装置で、前記基板の各ショット領域と前記マスクのパターンとの位置合わせを行うための位置合わせ方法において、

前記基板上の全部のショット領域のうち所定の複数のショット領域に属する所定の基準点の配列座標をそれぞれ 計測する第1工程と、

該第1工程で計測された実測配列座標、及び前記基板上 の所定の複数個のショット領域に属する前記所定の基準 10 点の設計上の配列座標を統計処理して、前記所定の基準 点の実測配列座標の線形成分を算出する第2工程と、

前記実測配列座標から前記線形成分を差し引いて非線形成分を求める第3工程と、

該第3工程で求められた非線形成分に基づき前記基板上 の各ショット領域の歪みを求める第4工程と、

を有することを特徴とする位置合わせ方法。

【請求項2】 請求項1記載の位置合わせ方法であって、

前記第4工程で検出された各ショット領域の歪みに合わせて前記基板上における前記マスクパターンの投影像を 歪ませることを特徴とする位置合わせ方法。

【請求項3】 請求項1、又は2記載の位置合わせ方法であって、

前記第4工程において、前記第1工程で計測された実測 配列座標に基づき前記所定の基準点を通る複数の曲線を 近似し、該近似により得られる複数の曲線に基づいて前 記基板上の各ショット領域の輪郭を求めることを特徴と する位置合わせ方法。

【請求項4】 請求項2記載の位置合わせ方法であって

前記露光装置は、前記マスクと前記基板とを相対的に走 査して前記マスクのパターンを逐次前記基板の各ショッ ト領域に転写する走査露光型の露光装置であり、

前記基板上における前記マスクのパターンの投影像を歪ませるために、前記マスクと前記基板との相対走査中に、相対走査方向、走査方向での位置ずれ、及び前記基板の高さの少なくとも1つを変化させることを特徴とする位置合わせ方法。

【発明の詳細な説明】

[0001]

【産業上の利用分野】本発明は、例えば統計的手法を用いて予測した配列座標に基づいてウエハ上の各ショット領域とマスクのパターンとの位置合わせを行う位置合わせ(アライメント)方法に関し、ステッパー型の露光装置で位置合わせを行う場合にも適用できるが、特にステップ・アンド・スキャン方式の露光装置において、マスクとウエハ上の各ショット領域との位置合わせを行う場合に好適なものである。

[0002]

【従来の技術】半導体素子又は液晶表示素子等をフォトリソグラフィ工程で製造する際に、マスクとしてのレチクルのパターンを投影光学系を介してフォトレジストが塗布されたウエハ(又はガラスプレート等)上の各ショット領域に転写する投影露光装置(ステッパー等)が使用されている。投影露光装置としては、ステッパー型の他に最近は、投影光学系に対する負担を重くすることなく露光面積を拡大するために、投影光学系に対してレチクルとウエハとを同期して走査するステップ・アンド・スキャン方式も使用されつつある。

【0003】例えば半導体素子は、ウエハ上に多数層の 回路パターンを重ねて形成されるので、2層目以降の回路パターンをウエハ上に投影露光する際には、ウエハ上 の既に回路パターンが形成された各ショット領域とこれ から露光するレチクルのパターンとの位置合わせ、即ちウエハの位置合わせ(ウエハアライメント)を高精度に 行う必要がある。従来の投影露光装置におけるウエハの 高精度な位置合わせ方法として、例えば特開昭 61-44429号公報で開示されているように、ウエハ上から 選択された所定個数のショット領域(サンプルショット)に付設されたアライメントマーク(ウエハマーク)の座標位置を計測し、この計測結果を統計処理してウエハ上の各ショット領域の配列座標を算出するエンハンスト・グローバル・アライメント(以下、「EGA」と略 称する)方式のアライメント方法が知られている。

[0004]

【発明が解決しようとする課題】しかしながら、このEGA方式によるアライメント方法では、ウエハ上のショット領域の配列座標を線形的に求め、それに基づき位置合わせをしているため、ウエハがさまざまなプロセスを受けることにより生じるショット領域内の非線形な歪みやウエハそのものの非線形な歪みはアライメント誤差

(重ね合わせ誤差)として残留していた。そのため、特に非線形な歪みが大きい場合には、高精度な位置合わせが困難であるという不都合があった。

【0005】本発明は斯かる点に鑑み、ウエハ上の各ショット領域内、又はウエハ自体に非線形な歪みがある場合でもそれら各ショット領域とレチクルの露光パターンとを高精度に位置合わせできる位置合わせ方法を提供することを目的とする。

[0006]

【課題を解決するための手段】本発明による位置合わせ方法は、マスク(R)に形成されたパターンを基板(W)上の各ショット領域に転写する露光装置で、その基板(W)の各ショット領域とそのマスク(R)のパターンとの位置合わせを行うための位置合わせ方法において、その基板(W)上の全部のショット領域のうち所定の複数のショット領域(21a~21h)に属する所定の基準点(22a~22h)の配列座標をそれぞれ計測50 する第1工程(ステップ101~107)と、この第1

工程で計測された実測配列座標、及びその基板(W)上の所定の複数個のショット領域(21a~21h)に属するその所定の基準点(22a~22h)の設計上の配列座標を統計処理して、その所定の基準点の実測配列座標の線形成分を算出する第2工程(ステップ108,109)と、その実測配列座標からその線形成分を差し引いて非線形成分を求める第3工程(ステップ110)と、この第3工程で求められた非線形成分に基づきその基板上の各ショット領域(21a~21h)の歪みを求める第4工程(ステップ111)と、を有するものであ 10る。

【0007】この場合、その第4工程で検出された各ショット領域(21a~21h)の歪みに合わせてその基板(W)上におけるそのマスクパターンの投影像を歪ませることが好ましい。また、その第4工程において、その第1工程で計測された実測配列座標に基づきその所定の基準点(22a~22h)を通る複数の曲線を近似し、この近似により得られる複数の曲線に基づいてその基板(W)上の各ショット領域(21a~21h)の輪郭を求めることが好ましい。

【0008】また、その露光装置の一例は、そのマスク(R)とその基板(W)とを相対的に走査してそのマスク(R)のパターンを逐次その基板(W)の各ショット領域(21d)に転写する走査露光型の露光装置であり、この場合、その基板(W)上におけるそのマスク(R)のパターンの投影像を歪ませるために、そのマスク(R)とその基板(W)との相対走査中に、相対走査方向、走査方向での位置ずれ、及びその基板(W)の高さの少なくとも1つを変化させることが好ましい。

[0009]

【作用】斯かる本発明の位置合わせ方法によれば、所定のショット領域の所定の基準点の配列座標の非線形成分を求めることにより、従来の技術では検出できなかった基板(W)の持つ非線形な歪みを検出することができる。また、第4工程で検出された各ショット領域(21 $a\sim21h$)の歪みに合わせて基板(W)上におけるマスクパターンの投影像を歪ませる場合には、非線形な誤差も補正可能になり、より高精度な位置合わせを行うことができる。

【0010】また、第4工程において、第1工程で計測された実測配列座標に基づき所定の基準点(22a~22h)を通る複数の曲線を近似し、この近似により得られる複数の曲線に基づいて基板(W)上の各ショット領域(21a~21h)の輪郭を求める場合には、各ショット領域(21a~21h)が非線形に歪んでいてもそれらの実際の輪郭に近い形の輪郭を求めることができる。

【0011】また、露光装置が、マスク(R)と基板(W)とを相対的に走査してマスク(R)のパターンを 逐次基板(W)の各ショット領域に転写する走査露光型 50

の露光装置であり、基板(W)上におけるマスク(R)のパターンの投影像を歪ませるために、マスク(R)と基板(W)との相対走査中に、相対走査方向、走査方向での位置ずれ、及び基板(W)の高さの少なくとも1つを変化させる場合には、ショット領域を走査しながらそのショット領域の歪みに合わせて相対走査方向、走査方向の位置ずれ、又は基板(W)の高さを変化させること

により基板上でのパターンの投影像と歪んだショット領

域とが重なるようにすることができる。

[0012]

【実施例】以下、本発明による投影露光装置の一実施例 について図面を参照して説明する。本例は、走査露光型 (ステップ・アンド・スキャン方式等) の投影露光装置 に本発明を適用したものである。図2は、本例の投影露 光装置の概略構成の斜視図を示し、この図2において、 超高圧水銀ランプ等からなる露光光源から射出された照 明光【Lは、フライアイインテグレータ、コリメータレ ンズ、リレーレンズ、及び視野絞り等からなる光学系A Lを経て照度分布が均一化される。そして、照度分布が 20 均一化された照明光 I L は、ダイクロイックミラー 1 に より反射され、コンデンサーレンズ2を経て回路パター ン等が描かれたレチクルRの下面(パターン形成面)の スリット状の照明領域 I A R を照明し、その照明領域 I A R 内のパターンを投影光学系 5 を介して縮小倍率 β (例えば1/5あるいは1/4)で縮小した投影像が、 その表面にフォトレジスト(感光材)が塗布されたウエ ハW上のスリット状の露光領域IAに投影される。ここ で図2において、投影光学系PLの光軸IXに平行にZ 軸を取り、その光軸IXに垂直な平面内の直交座標系を X軸、Y軸とする。なお、露光光源としては、超高圧水 銀ランプ等の輝線ランプの他、例えばKrFエキシマレ ーザやArFエキシマレーザ等のエキシマレーザ光源、 銅蒸気レーザやYAGレーザの高波波発生装置等が使用

【0013】レチクルRはレチクル微動ステージ3a上 に真空吸着され、このレチクル微動ステージ3aは光軸 IXに垂直な平面(XY平面)内で2次元的(回転も含 む) に微動してレチクルRを位置決めする。また、レチ クル微動ステージ3 a はリニアモータ等で構成されたレ チクル駆動部(不図示)により走査方向に駆動されるレ チクル走査用ステージ3b上に載置されており、Y方向 (走査方向) に所定の走査速度で移動可能となってい る。レチクルステージ3はレチクル微動ステージ3a及 びレチクル走査用ステージ3 bから構成され、レチクル ベース3c上でY方向に対してレチクルRの全面が少な くとも照明光学系の光軸IXを横切ることができるだけ の移動ストロークを有している。レチクル微動ステージ 3 a の端部には外部の X 方向のレーザ干渉計 9 からのレ ーザビームを反射する X 方向の移動鏡 4 X 及び Y 方向の 2個のレーザ干渉計(不図示)からのレーザビームを反 射する Y 方向の移動鏡 4 Y が固定されており、レチクルステージ3の走査方向(Y 方向)及びX 方向の位置は 2 個のレーザ干渉計の計測値の平均値及びX 方向のレーザ干渉計の計測値として、例えば 0. 0 1 μ m程度の分解能で常時検出されている。また、Y 軸用の 2 個のレーザ干渉計の計測値の差分よりレチクルステージ 3 の回転角も検出されている。

【0014】それらのレーザ干渉計からのレチクルステージ3の位置及び回転情報はステージ制御系12に送られ、ステージ制御系12はレチクルステージ3の位置及び回転情報に基づき、レチクル駆動部(不図示)を介して、レチクルステージ3を駆動する。不図示のレチクルアライメント系により所定の基準位置にレチクルRが精度良く位置決めされるように、レチクルステージ3の初期位置が決定されるため、移動鏡4X,4Yの位置をレーザ干渉計で測定するだけで、レチクルRの位置が十分高精度に測定される。また、それらのレーザ干渉計の測定値はステージ制御系12を介してアライメント制御系14及び中央制御系13に供給されており、中央制御系はこのレーザ干渉計の測定値に基づいてステージ制御系12を制御する。

【0015】本実施例の投影露光装置においては、図2に示すようにレチクルRの走査方向(Y方向)に対して垂直な方向(X方向)に長手方向を有する長方形(スリット状)の照明領域IARでレチクルRが照明され、レチクルRは露光時に-Y方向(又は+Y方向)に速度Vでスキャンされる。照明領域IAR(中心は光軸IXとほぼ一致)内のパターンは、投影光学系5を介してウエハW上に投影され、スリット状の露光領域IAが形成される。

【0016】ウエハWはレチクルRとは倒立結像関係にあるため、ウエハWは+Y方向(又は-Y方向)に、レチクルRに同期して、速度 V_{\bullet} でスキャンされ、ウエハW上のショット領域の全面にレチクルRのパターンが逐次露光される。走査速度の比(V_{\bullet} / V_{\bullet})は投影光学系PLの縮小倍率 β に一致したものになっており、レチクルRのパターンがウエハW上のショット領域上に正確に縮小転写される。

【0017】ウエハWはウエハホルダ6上に真空吸着され、ウエハホルダ6はウエハステージ7上に保持されている。ウエハステージ7は、不図示の駆動部により、投影光学系PLの最良結像面に対し、任意方向に傾斜可能で、且つ光軸1X方向(Z方向)に微動可能で、また光軸1Xの回りの回転動作も可能なZステージ7Z、Zステージ7Zを載置し且つX方向に移動自在なXステージ7X、及びXステージを載置しY方向に移動自在なYステージ7Yから構成されている。ウエハステージ7はモータ等のウエハステージ駆動部(不図示)によりウエハW上の各ショット領域へスキャン露光する動作と、次のショット領域の露光開始位置まで移動する動作とを繰り

返すステップ・アンド・スキャン動作を行う。

【0018】ウエハステージ7のZステージ7Zの端部 には外部のX方向のレーザ干渉計15からのレーザビー ムを反射するX方向の移動鏡10X及び不図示のY方向 の2個のレーザ干渉計からのレーザビームを反射する Y 方向の移動鏡10Yが固定され、ウエハステージ7のX Y平面内での位置はレーザ干渉計15及びY方向のレー ザ干渉計(以下、「レーザ干渉計15」で代表させる) によって、例えば 0. 01 μ m程度の分解能で常時検出 されている。レーザ干渉計15で計測されるウエハステ ージ7のX座標及びY座標によって定まる座標系をステ ージ座標系(X, Y)という。また、ウエハステージ7 の回転角も常時検出され、ウエハステージ7の位置情報 (又は速度情報)及び回転情報はステージ制御系12に 送られ、ステージ制御系12はこの位置情報(又は速度 情報)に基づいてウエハステージ駆動部を制御する。ま た、レーザ干渉計15の測定値はステージ制御系12を 介してアライメント制御系14及び中央制御系13に供 給されており、中央制御系13はこのレーザ干渉計15 の測定値に基づいてステージ制御系12を制御する構成 となっている。

【0019】また、図2の装置にはウエハWの露光面に 向けてピンホール像、あるいはスリット像を形成するた めの結像光束を光軸IXに対して斜め方向に照射する照 射光学系と、その結像光束のウエハWの露光表面での反 射光束をスリットを介して受光する受光光学系とからな る斜入射方式のウエハ位置検出系(焦点位置検出系) が、投影光学系5を支える支持部(不図示)に固定され ている。このウエハ位置検出系のより詳細な構成につい ては、例えば特開昭60-168112号公報に開示さ れている。ウエハ位置検出系はウエハの露光面の投影光 学系5の最良結像面に対するZ方向の位置偏差を検出 し、ウエハWと投影光学系5とが所定の間隔を保つよう にウエハホルダ6をZ方向に駆動するために用いられ る。ウエハ位置検出系からのウエハ位置情報は、ステー ジ制御系12を介して中央制御系13に送られる。中央 制御系13はこのウエハ位置情報に基づいてウエハホル ダ6をZ方向に駆動する。

【0020】また、本例の投影露光装置にはレチクルRとウエハWとの位置合わせを行うためのオフ・アクシス方式でFIA(Field Image Alignment)方式(撮像方式)のアライメントセンサ11が投影光学系5の近傍に備えられている。このFIA方式のアライメントセンサ11からウエハW上の後述するウエハマークに計測光が照射され、ウエハマークからの反射光がアライメントセンサ11内に設けた指標板上にウエハマーク像を結像し、この像をリレーした像が2次元CCD等の撮像素子で撮像される構成となっている。そして、アライメント制御系14でその撮像信号を画像処理することによりその指標板上の指標マークを基準としたウエハマークの位

置が検出され、更にそのときのウエハステージ7の座標を加算することでウエハマークのステージ座標系 (X,Y)での座標が検出される。

【0021】また、不図示であるが本例の投影露光装置にはその他、LSA(Laser Step Alignment)方式及びLIA(Laser Interferometric Alignment)方式のアライメントセンサが備えられており、ウエハWの表面状態により、アライメントセンサの種類を選択して使用する。これらのアライメントセンサからの検出信号はアライメント制御系14は中央制御系13により統括的に制御される構成となっている。なお、それぞれのアライメントセンサは後述するウエハマークに合わせてそれぞれX方向の位置ずれを検出するアライメントセンサが1軸及びY方向の位置ずれを検出するアライメントセンサが1軸、計2軸備えられている。

【0022】次に、本例の位置合わせ方法につき図1のフローチャートを参照して説明する。先ず、ステップ101でウエハWをローディング・ポイントで粗く位置決めする。即ち、ウエハWを不図示のプリアライメント装20置により、ウエハW上のフラット部又はノッチ部が一定の方向を向くように粗く位置決めする。そして、ステップ102においてウエハWをステージ上のウエハホルダ6上に搬送し、先に位置決めされた方向を保つように設置してウエハWをウエハホルダ6上に真空吸着する。

【0023】次に、ステップ103に移行して図2に示すアライメントセンサ11を用いて、ウエハWの各ショット領域に形成されたウエハマークの位置を計測することにより精密な位置合わせを行う。なお、この位置合わせはウエハWの第2層目以降について行われるものであり、ウエハW上の各ショット領域毎にそれぞれウエハマークがすでに形成されている。

【0024】図3は、ウエハW上のショット配列を示 し、図3ではそのショット配列のうちウエハWの中央部 を通る一列だけを取り出している。ウエハW上の全部の ショット領域から選択された所定個数のショット領域 (以下「サンプルショット」と呼ぶ) のウエハマークの ステージ座標系(X,Y)での座標位置を計測する。こ の図5において、各ショット領域21a~21hをサン プルショットとする。各ショット領域間のストリートラ イン中には例えばショット領域21a, 21bで示すよ うに、X方向の位置検出用のウエハマーク48A,48 B、及びY方向の位置検出用のウエハマーク49A, 4 9 Bが形成されている。以下では、X方向及びY方向の ウエハマークがそれぞれ各ショット領域の中心の配列座 標を示すものとして、その中心の配列座標を各ショット 領域の配列座標とみなす。ウエハW上の各ショット領域 のウエハW上の座標系(試料座標系)(x, y)上での 設計上の配列座標は予め記憶されている。

【0025】図5に示すように、各ショット領域は設計 50

時の矩形の形から変形し、各ショット領域 $21a\sim21h$ の中心点 $22a\sim22h$ は試料座標系(x, y)に対して平行に配列せず、曲線的に配列している。本例はこのようなショット配列を有するウエハWのショット配列をまずEGA法により線形近似し、それに基づいて更に実測値に近い曲線近似することにより実際のショット配列に近い配列座標を算出するものである。

【0026】この場合、ショット領域21aを計測対象のサンプルショットとすると、X軸用のウエハマーク48Aのステージ座標系(X,Y)でのX座標が図2のアライメントセンサ11により検出され、Y軸用のウエハマーク49AのY座標が不図示のY軸用のアライメントセンサにより検出され、それらのアライメントセンサの検出結果が図2のアライメント制御系14及び中央制御系13に供給される。

【0027】より詳しく説明すると、ウエハW上の全部のショット領域から K個(Kは 3以上の整数)のショット領域をサンプルショットとして選択する。この際に、ウエハW上の全部のショット領域の中心、即ち各ウエハマークの試料座標系(x,y)での設計上の配列座標は、中央制御系 13内の記憶部に記憶されている。以下では n番目(n=1~K)のサンプルショットの中心の設計上の配列座標を(X0、Y0)とする。

【0028】そして、中央制御系13はステップ103において、サンプルショットの順序を示す整数nを1に初期化した後、ステップ104に移行して、n番目のサンプルショットの中心の設計上の配列座標(X。,

Y。)に基づきステージ制御系12を介してウエハステージ7をステッピング駆動することにより、n番目のサンプルショットのウエハマークがアライメントセンサ11の計測位置にくるように設定する。但し、実際にはウエハWの伸縮、回転誤差等によってそのサンプルショットの中心は露光位置から外れている。この位置ずれ量がアライメント誤差であり、このアライメント誤差を含んだ実際の配列座標が計測される。

【0031】次に、ステップ109に移行して、中央制御系13はステップ108で求めたEGAパラメータ及びウエハW上の全部のショット領域の中心点の設計上の配列座標値(C_{Xm} , C_{Ym})を用いて、それら各中心点のステージ座標系(X, Y)上での計算上の線形な配列座標値(G_{Xm} , G_{Ym})を求める。図4は、図3に示すショット領域21a~21hのそれぞれの中心点22a~22hのステージ座標系(X, Y)における状態を示し、この図6において、 α 軸が中心点22a~22hに関して以上のEGA計算により求められた配列座標値

【0032】そこで、ステップ110において、ステッ プ109で算出された線形な配列座標(Gxn, Gvn)と 実測値 (XMa, YMa) との配列誤差 (ΔGxx, ΔG w) を算出し、その配列誤差 (Δ G w , Δ G w) に基づ いて、ウエハW上のショット配列を一例としてラグラン ジュの補間多項式により曲線補間し、非線形な曲線配列 座標値を算出する。ここでウエハWの各ショット領域が X方向にp列、Y方向にq行形成されているものとする と、この曲線配列座標値をp列、q行に亘って算出し、 ウエハWの全部のショット領域の配列座標値を求める。 これによりp列に関して(Pxas , Pyas)、q行に関 して(Qxax , Qxax)の曲線配列座標値が得られる。 但し、mは1からpまでの整数であり、sは1からqま での整数である。なお、本例では各ショット領域の曲線 配列を求めるのにラグランジュの補間多項式を用いた が、他の補間式や近似式を用いてもよい。例えば座標に 関して2次関数や3次関数等で近似してもよい。

【0033】図5は、曲線近似により得られた曲線配列 座標値の一部を示し、この図5において、配列曲線23 はショット領域21a~21hの中心点22a~22h に関する近似曲線を示し、この配列曲線23に示すよう に以上の方法により得られた曲線配列座標値は実測値に 近い配列を示している。次に、ステップ111で、ステ ップ110で求めた曲線配列座標値より各ショット領域 の輪郭曲線を補間式により求める。例えばショット領域 21a~21hの輪郭曲線を求める場合、ショット領域 21a~21hがいまs行にあるとすると、ショット領 域21a~21hの+β方向の端部の輪郭を示す補間座 標値(T Hxas , T Hyas) はショット領域21a~2 1hの属するp個の列を表す補間式に(PԿա(s-1) vas) / 2を代入することで算出される。また、同様に - β 方向の端部の輪郭を示す補間座標値(B Hxas , B + P_{ves}) / 2を代入すること H_{Yus}) は (P_{Yu(s+1)} で算出される。同様な方法によりショット領域21 a~ 21hのα軸方向の左右の輪郭を示す輪郭座標値(RH xas , R H yas) , (L H xas , L H yas)を算出す る。そしてウエハW上の全部のショット領域の輪郭を表 す輪郭座標値を算出し、中央制御系13で記憶する。な お、ここで求めた輪郭座標値は各ショット領域の辺の位 置を示す座標値ではなく、隣り合うショット領域の中間 の位置、即ちストリートラインの中央部の位置を示して いる。従って、各ショット領域の辺の位置座標が必要で あれば、例えばストリートラインの幅をdとした場合、 上記の補間座標値に± d/2だけ加えれば算出すること ができる。同様に各ショット領域のβ軸方向の輪郭曲線 も算出される。

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【0034】図6は、以上の方法により求められた補間座標値を示す曲線マップを示し、この図6において、例えば破線で示す補間曲線24Tはショット領域21a~21hの+ β 方向の端部の輪郭を示す補間座標値(TH kes , TH kes)を表す曲線を示し、同様に破線で示す補間曲線24Bはショット領域21a~21hの- β 方向の端部の輪郭を示す補間座標値(BH kes , BH kes)を表す曲線を示している。また、同じく破線で示す補間曲線24Rはショット領域21gの- α 方向の端部の輪郭を示す補間座標値(RH kes , RH kes)を表す曲線を示し、補間曲線24Lはショット領域21gの+ α 方向の端部の輪郭を示す補間座標値(LH kes , LH kes)を表す曲線を示している。

40 【0035】次に、ステップ112において、nを1に 初期化して各ショット領域の露光を開始する。先ず、ステップ113において、ステップ110で求めた各ショット領域の中心点の位置を示す曲線配列座標値に従ってウエハステージ7を位置決めする。そして、ステップ114において、ステップ113で決定されたステージ位置から、ステップ111で求めたショット領域間の補間曲線に沿うようにウエハステージ7又はレチクルステージ3を走査しながら露光を行う。この場合、ウエハWの走査方向は β 方向であるため、例えば図2の2ステージ72を回転して、その β 方向がステージ座標系の2 軸と

一致するようにウエハWを回転しておく。

【0036】図7は、ショット領域の輪郭に対応するレチクルステージ3及びウエハステージ7の走査方向を説明するためのもので、図7(a)及び図7(d)はそれぞれ歪み方の異なる2つのショット領域を示している。また、図7(b)、(e)はその場合のレチクルステージ3の走査方向を示し、図7(c)、(f)はウエハステージ7の走査方向を示している。この図7(a)に示すようにショット領域25の上辺25Tに向けて下辺25Bから左右の両辺25R,25Lが+X方向(β 軸に10直角な方向)に一様に曲がっている場合には、図7(c)、(b)に示すようにウエハステージ7を+Y方向(β 軸方向)に直線的に走査すると共に、レチクルステージ3の走査線27のウエハW上での投影像がショッ

テージ3の走査線27のウエハW上での投影像がショット領域25の左右の辺25R,25Lとのほぼ同形になるようにレチクルステージ3を-Y方向に走査する。この場合、図7(a)のショット領域25の上辺25Tと右辺25Lの交点 P_1 から右辺25Lのある地点 P_2 までのY方向の距離をuとし、交点 P_1 から地点 P_2 までのX方向の距離をt(u)とすれば、図7(b)のレチ20クルステージ3の走査開始地点 P_3 と図7(a)の地点 P_4 に対応する地点 P_4 との間のX方向及びY方向の距離w及びR(w)との間に、t(u)= β r(w)がほぼ成立するようにレチクルステージ3の走査方向を制御する。なお、 β は投影光学系5の投影倍率を示し、ショット領域の距離 uとレチクルステージ3の走査距離wとの間には、u= β wの関係が成立している。

【0037】また、図7(d)のようにショット領域26の上辺26Tと下辺26Bとが平行な状態になく、左辺26Rの幅が右辺26Lの幅より大きく、且つ左右の30両辺が+X方向に膨らむように曲がっている場合には、図7(e)に示すように、レチクルステージ3の中央部が図7(d)のショット領域26の中心点26aを通る曲線配列座標を示す配列曲線30に対応する走査曲線29bに沿うように走査しながらレチクルステージ3の左右の走査方向を図7(d)のショット領域の両辺26R,26Lに対応する走査曲線29a,29cに沿うように走査する。具体的にはレチクルステージ3を反時計回りに回転させることによりレチクルステージ3の左右の移動距離を調節する。40

ウエハステージ7を2方向に移動する。また、図8

(b) の例では、ショット領域33を露光する場合は走査中にレチクルステージ3及びウエハステージ7を2方向に移動させながら投影倍率 β を徐々に小さくして露光を行う。

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【0039】次に、ステップ115で、整数nの値を1だけ増加させた後、ステップ116に移行して、全部のショット領域の露光が終了したかどうかを確認する。終了していなければ再びステップ113に戻り、次のショット領域を露光する。終了した場合は、ステップ117で露光が終了したウエハWをウエハホルダ6から取り出す(アンロード)ことによりウエハWに関する露光動作を終了する。

【0040】以上、本例の位置合わせ方法によれば、従来の技術では補正できなかった被処理基板の持つ非線形な歪みによる誤差も補正可能になり、より高精度な位置合わせを行うことができる。また、ショット領域各々の歪み成分も考慮して露光時にウエハステージ又はレチクルステージを曲線状に走査することにより、ショット領域の中心部だけでなく外周部での重ね合わせの精度向上の効果があり、ウエハ1枚当たりから取れるチップの歩留りも上がるという利点がある。更に本例によれば、ウエハ上のショット領域の輪郭曲線を求めることにより、各ショット領域の倍率変動も知ることができ、走査露光時にショット領域毎の倍率補正を行うことが可能になるという利点もある。

【0041】また、本発明の方法は走査型の投影露光装置に限らず、レチクル上のパターンをウエハ上のショット領域に一括露光するステッパ型の露光装置にも適用することができる。このように、本発明は上述実施例に限定されず本発明の要旨を逸脱しない範囲で種々の構成を取り得る。

[0042]

【発明の効果】本発明の位置合わせ方法によれば、所定の複数のショット領域の配列座標の非線形成分を求めているため、従来検出されなかった基板(ウエハ)の非線形な歪みを検出することができる利点がある。また、第4工程で検出された各ショット領域の歪みに合わせて基板上におけるマスクパターンの投影像を歪ませる場合には、基板の非線形な歪みまで考慮して位置合わせを行うため、より高精度な重ね合わせが可能になるという効果がある。

【0043】また、第4工程において、第1工程で計測された実測配列座標に基づき所定の中心点を通る複数の曲線を近似し、この近似により得られる複数の曲線に基づいて基板上の各ショット領域の輪郭を求める場合には、各ショット領域のほぼ実際の形に近い輪郭を求めることができる。更に、基板上の各ショット領域の正確な輪郭が求められることにより各ショット領域の倍率変動も知ることができる。従って、例えば露光時にショット

領域毎の倍率補正を行うことができる利点もある。

【0044】また、露光装置が、マスクと基板とを相対 的に走杳してマスクのパターンを逐次基板の各ショット 領域に転写する走査露光型の露光装置であり、基板上に おけるマスクのパターンの投影像を歪ませるために、マ スクと基板との相対走査中に、相対走査方向、走査方向 での位置ずれ、及び基板の高さの少なくとも1つを変化 させる場合には、ショット領域を走査しながらそのショ ット領域の歪みに合わせて相対走査方向、走査方向の位 置ずれ、又は基板の高さを変化させることにより基板上 10 W ウエハ でのパターンの投影像とショット領域の歪みとが重なる ようにすることができる。従って、各ショット領域の中 心部だけでなく外周部での重ね合わせの精度向上の効果 があり、基板1枚当たりから取れるチップの歩留りも上 がるという利点がある。

【図面の簡単な説明】

【図1】本発明による位置合わせ方法の一実施例を示す フローチャートである。

【図2】本発明の実施例で使用される投影露光装置の全 体の概略構成を示す斜視図である。

【図3】図2中のウエハWのショット配列の一部を試料 座標系で示す平面図である。

【図4】図3のショット配列の線形成分からのずれを示 す平面図である。

【図5】図3のショット配列の非線形成分を考慮した配 列曲線を示す平面図である。

【図6】図5の配列曲線に基づいて求めた各ショット領*

* 域の輪郭曲線を示す平面図である。

【図7】図6に示す各ショット領域の歪みとレチクルス テージ及びウエハステージの走査方向との対応関係の例 を示す図である。

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【図8】図6に示す各ショット領域の歪みをウエハステ ージの高さを変化させることにより補正する例を説明す るための図である。

【符号の説明】

R レチクル

3 レチクルステージ

5 投影光学系

7 ウエハステージ

7 X Xステージ

7 Y Yステージ

72 Zステージ

9 レーザ干渉計(レチクル用)

15 レーザ干渉計(ウエハ用)

11 FIA方式のアライメントセンサ

12 ステージ制御系 20

13 中央制御系

14 アライメント制御系

21a~21h ショット領域

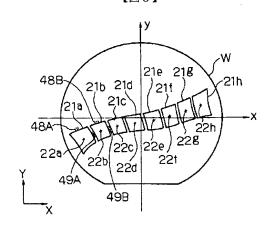
22a~22h 中心点

48A, 48B, 49A, 49B ウエハマーク

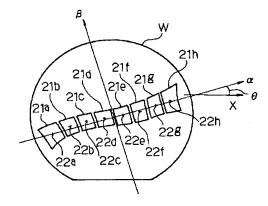
23 配列曲線

24T, 24B, 24R, 24L 輪郭曲線

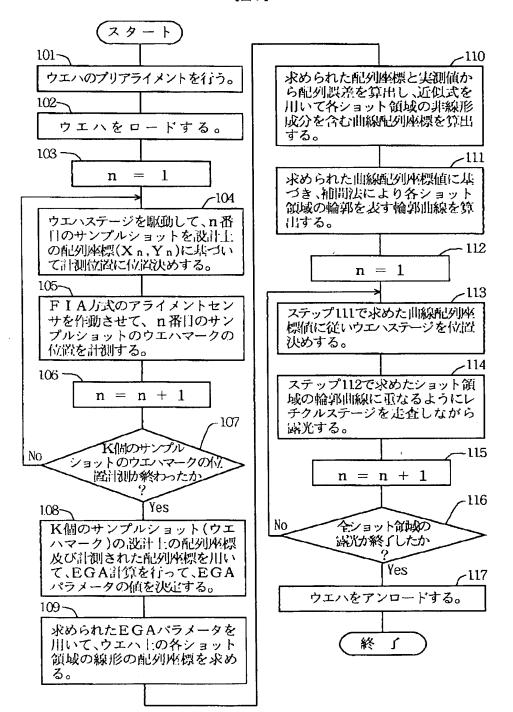
【図3】

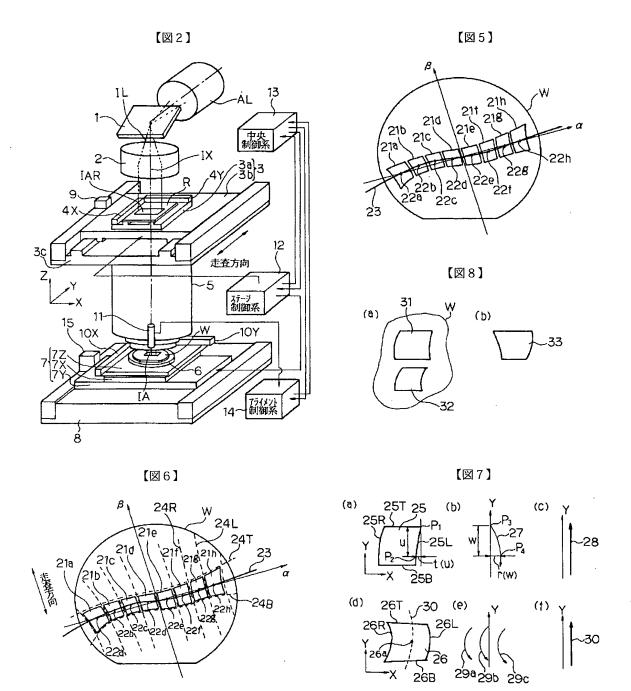


【図4】



【図1】





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